Gould, Joseph F [re Albanian Independence] Nov. 1915 - Jan. 1916 (no)

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November 4th, 1915

Joseph F. Gould, Esq.,

Care Rev. F. S. Noley,

97 Compton Street, Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Gould:

I have just received your letter from North Dakota. I am sorry that you cannot agree with my position with regard to the fundamental causes of the present war. However, I have studied the question as fully as I can and am convinced that Germany is the one to blame.

I have so many other immediate necessities to deal with arising out of the present war that I am unable to take the time, or I should probably be unable to get the opportunity to study impartially the question with regard to the Albanian neutrality. Moreover I am afraid that I could not agree with the attitude that is publicly taken on other questions with regard to the war by a number of the members of your Committee. I am so convinced that we are in a life and death struggle for the highest ideals of democracy that in the meantime I must direct all my energies and any little influence I may have to working for bringing it to a successful issue.

With appreciation of your letter, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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your view-point.

As a rule, I think the people of India are not very strongly pro-ally at least among the educated classes, but I know one exception, a brilliant Parsi gentleman, Mr. Ruston Rustomjee, formerly editor of the Oriental Review. He is now stopping at the Hotel Commonwealth in Boston, Mass., as the war prevents his return, and he is making many eloquent speeches in favor of the English cause. If his other engagements permit I think you might aid recruiting by having him address deliver a series of addresses in Toronto, provided the Canadian immigration laws will allow him to come there.

I think we both of us share the hope that the end of the war will result in an extension of democracy, and perhaps one good result may be the sweeping away of the undemocratic barrier which Canada makes against a race which is fighting for the support of the Empire.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph F. Gould.

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Ellsworth, No. Dakota,
Nov. 22, 1915

R. A. Falconer, LL.D.:
University of Toronto;
Toronto, Canada;

Dear Sir;

It was a pleasure to receive your candid and straightforward letter, which made me more proud than ever of my English and Canadian descent, although I am unable to agree with your view of the war. I would certainly not wish you to neglect the duty, which your honest and well-considered opinion puts on your shoulders, but I ask you to be one of the endorsers of the Friends of Albanian Independence in the belief that it will lend moral weight to your support of the war against Germany, and your denunciation of the violation of Albanian neutrality. If you denounce the tragedy of Belgium (as I do myself) but are silent concerning far worse attrocities committed against Albania, because they are perpetrated by the allies of England, might it not seem that you had fallen somewhat into that perversion of patriotism which your mind and heart condemn in the case of the German professors, although like yourself they are conscientious and intellectual?

I do not wish to have the cause of the Albanians wrapped up in the success or defeat of either side, because the world is interested

in seeing that future quarrels in the Balkans should be avoided. Mrs. Gladstone favored the freedom of Albania, and England ought to make amends for the execrable blunder of Disraeli in handing over millions of Christians to Turkish rule, for which England now faces retribution in seeing Germany direct Turkish policy, and seeing English vessels made to take the forts at the Dardanelles which Englishmen builded.

The Friends of Albanian Independence exist only in order to present a policy to be followed at the close of the war, and they favor neither side. It is true that the list of Prominent Endorsers does number people whose views differ from yours on other subjects, but since there is no one on that list, whose heart and brain, you can not but respect it would not detract from your crusade against the violators of Belgian neutrality to join in this movement for justice to a much oppressed race, justice not immediately, but at the close of the war. It might say that one of the foremost champions of the English cause, ~~in the~~ United States, a man who is trying to urge the States into the war, is an atheist, a philosophic anarchist and an advocate of free love which he practises, and yet you would not withdraw from helping the English cause, because you do not agree with his other opinions. Unless England is going to adopt the German tactics of giving away territory which does not belong to her to gain allies or benevolent neutrals, the only logical position for representatives of the country which claims to protect smaller nationalities is on the side of independence for Albania when the new map of Europe is made. Otherwise the English attitude is as sordid and cynical as that of Germany.

It may well be that your official position makes it impossible for you to endorse these claims or even to investigate them, in which case I would be glad to have you suggest other prominent Canadians who may have better opportunities for studying some of the questions which arise out of this war, and which must be settled rightly to avoid future wars. I realise that the atmosphere of war stifles freedom of thought and of discussion, but I hope that you can do this. I also venture to hope that perhaps you may be able to arrange a lecture at the University of Toronto, either for myself or for some representative of the Albanian Federation, Vatra, as I am sure that it will not be in vain to appeal to the racial instinct of British fair play.

I am going to send you a copy of The German-Americans, a pamphlet which may interest you as it is written from

December 2nd, 1915

Mr. J. F. Gould,

Ellowoods, N.D.

My dear Sir:

I must still adhere to my decision not to join the committee that undertakes to maintain the rights of Albania as one individual among the Balkan States. My reason for doing so is simply this,-I have perfect confidence in Sir Edward Grey. I believe also that our Empire and our Allies are sincere when they have maintained that one of their main objects in figthing this war through is to deal honestly with small nations and give them every chance.

Personally I do not know the rights of these peoples nor am I in any position to ascertain what their rights may be, but I have as a British subject and on thoroughly reasonable grounds every confidence that justice will be done to small nations in the event of our winning anything like a decisive victory. If the victory is not decisive I do not know what may happen. The most high-minded British diplomacy may not be able to attain its ends. However, I believe that the victory will be decisive. We at least in Canada are leaving no stone unturned to accomplish this result.

It is probably no use my sending you the name of any other Canadian, for the name of any Canadian you would want on your Committee and whom I would send you would hold pretty much my opinion.

Yours sincerely,

January 4th, 1916

Mr. J. F. Gould,

Elbowoods, N.D.

Dear Mr. Gould:

Now that Albania has declared herself against Austria any fears that you may have as to her future should be relieved. The utter inhumanity of the foe that we are fighting has again been revealed by the action of the submarines in the Mediterranean during the past ten days. The sinking of great ships full of non-combatants makes it clearer than ever that we are defending the civilisation of the world. It creates such horror in our minds that it will be I am sure one of the powerful motives to move the Canadian people once again to respond to Sir Robert Borden's offer to raise 500,000 men and to spend our money to the utmost limit. It is now a question not of talk but of action. Mad people have to be taken hold of and put into confinement until they come to their senses. I hope that by the end of the year we may see peace, but certainly we shall emerge from the struggle a different people from what we were when we went in.

Yours sincerely,

President.